

Message Text

SECRET

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44

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 L-03 DODE-00 IO-13 OMB-01 ACDA-07 /068 W

----- 122129

R 041736Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY QUITO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1427

INFO AMEMBASSY LIMA

AMCONSUL GUAYAQUIL

AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

S E C R E T QUITO 6367

E.O. 11652: XGDS-2

TAGS: PFOR, EC, PE

SUBJECT: ECUADOREAN/PERUVIAN BORDER DISPUTE

REF: QUITO 5699

1. MFA OFFICIAL INFORMED DCM CONFIDENTIALLY SEPT. 3 THAT THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS EFFORTS TO OPEN NEGOTIATIONS ON THE PERUVIAN/ECUADOREAN BORDER DISPUTE WERE PROVING SUCCESSFUL. OFFICIAL STATED THAT AGREEMENT HAD BEEN REACHED ON A DRAFT JOINT STATEMENT WITH GOP IN WHICH PERU RECOGNIZES THAT A BORDER PROBLEM EXISTS AND THAT ECUADOR IS AN AMAZONIC COUNTRY WITH RIGHT TO ACCESS TO THE AMAZON. OFFICIAL STATED THAT DISAGREEABLE PORTION TO ECUADOREANS OF DRAFT DECLARATION WAS STATEMENT THAT THE RIO PROTOCOL IS IN EFFECT, AND THAT GOE WOULD LIKE TO OBTAIN MODIFICATION. THE MINISTRY OFFICIAL STATED THE DRAFT DECLARATION HAD ALREADY BEEN SHOWN TO MEMBERS OF THE SUPREME COUNCIL AND TO THE ADVISORY COUNCIL OF THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS. THE DRAFT IS TO BE EXAMINED BY THE SECURITY COUNCIL ON SEPT. 7. THE DECLARATION WILL BE MADE PUBLIC AFTER INTERNAL CLEARANCE BY BOTH GOVTS, HOPEFULLY NEXT WEEK.

2. MFA OFFICIAL STATED THAT SUCCESS IN THIS AREA (IF IT MATERIALIZES) WAS MADE POSSIBLE BY PERSISTENT EFFORT OF

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FONMIN PESANTES. THE FONMIN MET 3 TIMES WITH PRESIDENT

PINOCHET DURING THE OAS GENERAL ASSEMBLY IN SANTIAGO AND REPORTEDLY HAS BEEN IN FREQUENT TELEPHONE CONVERSATIONS WITH PERUVIAN FONMIN, WHOM HE HAS KNOWN FOR SOME 30 YEARS. VISIT OF AMBS BUSTAMANTE & VIENTEMILLA TO LIMA IN JULY WAS PART OF NEGOTIATION. ECUADOREANS BELIEVE THAT TIMING OF DIPLOMATIC INITIATIVE ON THIS SUBJECT HAS BEEN PROPITIOUS BECAUSE OF GOP'S DESIRE TO REMOVE CHANCE OF CONFLICT ON ITS NORTHERN BORDER SHOULD HOSTILITIES BREAK OUT WITH CHILE, WHICH ECUADOREANS SAY PERUVIANS REGARD AS A REAL POSSIBILITY. THE OFFICIAL STATED THAT THE FOREIGN MINISTRY DOES NOT CURRENTLY ASPIRE TO RECOVERY OF ALL AMAZONIC TERRITORIES AND THE RE-ESTABLISHMENT OF A FRONTIER WITH BRAZIL BUT REALISTICALLY HOPES TO ATTAIN ACCESS TO THE AMAZON VIA THE MARANON AND THUS LIVE UP TO THE WORDS INSCRIBED IN STONE IN QUITO'S PLAZA OF INDEPENDENCE "ECUADOR AN AMAZONIC COUNTRY".

3. THE FONMIN, ACCORDING TO THE MINISTRY SOURCE, REALIZES THAT THE CLAUSE WITHIN THE PROPOSED JOINT DECLARATION THAT RECOGNIZES THE 1942 RIO PROTOCOL AS BEING IN EFFECT COULD CAUSE SERIOUS INTERNAL REPERCUSSIONS IN ECUADOR, BUT BELIEVES IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT ECUADOR ACHIEVE A SETTLEMENT TO THIS LONG-STANDING PROBLEM. THE MINISTRY FURTHERMORE BELIEVES THAT THE RIO PROTOCOL IS NOT EXECUTABLE IN ITS ENTIRETY BECAUSE OF THE DISCOVERY AFTER ITS SIGNING OF THE CENEPA RIVER. ACCORDING TO THE RIO PROTOCOL THE DIVISION OF THE WATERSHEDS OF THE SANTIAGO AND THE ZAMORA RIVER SYSTEMS WAS TO SERVE AS THE BOUNDARY. THE DISCOVERY OF THE 120-MILE LONG CENEPA RIVER BETWEEN THEM, HOWEVER, MAKES THIS PORTION OF THE TREATY INOPERABLE.

BLOOMFIELD

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NNN

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